

RAH, RAH, RUSSIA!

32640

The Facts About America's Amazing Communist College . . . Coed Dormitories, Nude Bathing Parties, and (Believe It or Not) Funds from the U. S. Government!

READING TIME • 16 MINUTES 40 SECONDS

WHAT did your boys learn at college this fall?
What ideas are your girls bringing home this Christmas?

A group of fathers and mothers in Arkansas, alarmed by tendencies they observed, began to ask these questions in a big way, and with the help of a legislative investigating committee they got some big answers.

The institution under scrutiny was Commonwealth College at Mena, Arkansas. The first witness was Lucien Koch, then president and director of the college, now holder of an important government post in Washington.

Being duly sworn, Dr. Koch was asked:

"Do you believe in the Bible?"

"I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Bible," he replied, "to state whether or not I believe in it."

"Do you believe in God?"

"No."

"Dr. Koch, have you ever voted?"

"I have not."

"Do you feel that you owe allegiance to this government where you live?"

The witness sidestepped the question with a statement of his beliefs anent freedom of speech.

"Can you answer my question, yes or no?"

"No. It would be unfair to your question for me to answer it so abruptly."

"Do you have a higher regard for other governments than you have for the American government?"

Commonwealth College students giving ear to Lucien Koch (with hand to head) in his time as president and director.

"I believe that the government of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics [Soviet Russia] is in many ways superior to the American government."

"Do you believe in that to such an extent that you would attempt to overthrow the American form of government to arrive at that principle? Will you answer my question, yes or no?"

"To do that would be unfair to your question."

Throughout his testimony Dr. Koch's tenderness for the feelings of the committee continued to prevent his answering questions anent his loyalty to his country's government.

"Do you respect the American flag?"

Here, at least, was one that the president of an American college and the future officeholder in an American administration might answer in the affirmative without fear of hurting anybody's feelings. What Dr. Koch said was:

"I refuse to answer without advice of counsel."

After admitting that he had gone to jail for four days as the result of his activities in the planter-tenant situation in Poinsett County, and identifying an issue of the official publication of the college, which announced the formation "without a dissenting vote" of "an all-inclusive united front . . . to build revolutionary student and teacher organizations in the colleges of the state," Dr. Koch was allowed to step down from the stand. He was succeeded by Charlotte Moskowitz.





SHE SHOWED WOMEN HOW TO GO *"Smiling Through"*

We all know Lydia Estes Pinkham and her famous Vegetable Compound.

But few realize the courage it required to offer its benefits to womankind.

For those were the days when women were not the equal of men. When many thought that the use of ether was sinful. When the idea of relieving the suffering of women was dismissed with the statement: "Women were meant to suffer."

It took real fortitude to defy this tradition.

But Lydia Pinkham knew the effectiveness of her compound. For more than ten years she had been giving it away free to all who needed it. For ten years she had seen women come to her door, women harassed with the ordeals of their sex and pleading for relief. First her own neighbors; then women from all sections of her home town; finally travelers from the neighboring cities all around.

So she began to sell her preparation in

order that she might have the money to advertise its virtues to *all* women.

What a furore that created! To talk in public print about the ordeals that women face! It was unthinkable! No wonder they sang songs about her compound! But then, the pioneer is always ridiculed.

Lydia Pinkham, however, would not be discouraged. Slowly her efforts bore fruit. More and more, women began to tell others how Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was proving helpful, how it enabled them to go smiling through the ordeals of their sex.

Today the compound is in use wherever humans dwell. Increasing millions are using it gratefully—*young girls*

crossing the threshold to womanhood, wives preparing for motherhood, women approaching "middle age." And Lydia E. Pinkham's genuine greatness is finally being recognized.

Lydia Pinkham was a pioneer. She held to her vision and battled to make her dream come true. Her work is being carried on in a great laboratory occupying six modern buildings. But the real monument to her memory consists of the millions of letters written to her by women in every walk of life—

women who had found relief from pain—letters of gratitude to one who had had the courage to deny that "women were meant to suffer."

For three generations one woman has told another how to go "smiling through" with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It helps Nature tone up the system, thus lessening the discomforts* which must be endured, especially during

The Three Ordeals of Woman

1. *Passing from girlhood into womanhood.*
 2. *Preparing for Motherhood.*
 3. *Approaching "Middle Age."*
- *Functional Disorders*

One woman tells another how to go "Smiling Through" with



"I believe that the Soviet government is superior to the American."—Dr. Koch

secretary, treasurer, and member of the faculty of Commonwealth College, who was even more truculent than her superior in stating her views on both church and state.

"Do you believe in a Supreme Being?" she was asked.

"What do you mean by a Supreme Being?" was the reply.

"God."

"What do you mean by God?"

"As referred to in the Bible."

"I am sure I have never read the Bible. My religion is my own code of conduct," she explained.

"You know what the common definition of God is?"

"No."

"Do you respect that flag up there?" the spokesman asked suddenly, pointing to the Stars and Stripes.

"I do not respect any symbol."

"What do you think the flag is for?"

"I don't know," she said.

After questioning other teachers, the committee switched from religion and politics to sex.

T. J. Thomas, a citizen who lived on the college prop-

by NOLEN BULLOCH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PICTURES, INC.

erty and who rented his land from Dr. Koch, was asked:

"Have you seen men and women at Commonwealth College in bathing together without clothes on?"

"Sure!" he answered.

"When?"

"Last summer. Down on Mill Creek in the swimming hole."

"How many?"

"Six, eight, or ten, a creekful of them."

"Does that occur often?"

"Oh, yes, pretty often," he allowed.

"Did you see any other indecent things in the swimming hole—that is, any actions on their part?"

"No. In the swimming pool they were just swimming."

"Any other place?"

"Well, yes; in the woods."

"Naked?"

"Just the same as naked."

"What were they doing?"

"You can guess the balance of it."

The committee's spokesman was not satisfied to guess. At his insistence Mr. Thomas was more explicit.

"Do you know who they were?"

"I know the girl. She was at the school last summer. She was just fifteen years old, going on sixteen."

"Was the man a student at the college?"

"Yes."

"Do you know of any other indecent incidents at this college?" the committee's counsel asked.

"Yes, sir," replied Thomas.

"Were the parties students in this college?"

"Yes; I guess I passed as near as five or six feet and could have kicked them if I had wanted to."

"Did they see you?"

"Yes, and they didn't pay me any mind!"

Mr. Thomas then told of a play he had attended at the college in which Dr. Koch had a principal part.

"I saw him one night in a play at the college," he said, "divorcing and marrying them as they do in Russia."

"Was it shown in the play how they married in Russia and divorced in Russia?"

"Yes, sir. The girl spoke up and said, 'I want a divorce.' Lucien said, 'Why?' She said, 'He doesn't suit me.' Lucien then gave them a divorce," said Mr. Thomas.



"He was not actually giving the divorce?"
"No; that was in the play. The girl went out and later came back with another man and said, 'We want to get married.'"

"Lucien said, 'All right. Do you think this man will suit you?' And she says, 'Yes; we have been living together for a month and we think we suit each other.'"

"Now, after this marriage, was there anything said about this being the proper manner in which to be married?"

"All that was said was by Lucien Koch, who remarked: 'That is the way we do business in Russia, and we believe in it.'"

L. E. Shepard, a forty-eight-year-old Arkansan whose property adjoins that of Commonwealth College, also told of seeing mixed nude bathing and illegal cohabitation at the institution and "indecent conduct right before myself and others."

The star witness as to sex conditions at the college was, as it turned out, D. S. Tankersley of Mena, who, in his capacity of deputy sheriff, had been active in helping two fathers, one from Illinois and one from Louisiana, to recover daughters who had been lured to Commonwealth by two male students.

"So I goes out to the college," he began, "and I states to Mr. Benton [one of the founders] that I wanted to see these young fellows; and he goes out of his office and around to a bedroom and turns the light on, and pointed the two young fellows out to me. Them and their gals. They didn't have any beds, but had pallets. There were four rows of pallets, and they were paired off on the same pallet clear across the room."

"How many were in the room?" asked a committee-man.

"About twenty-five or thirty couples of them."

"How were they dressed?"

"Dressed in their nightclothes, the four I got out of bed were."

"Now, do you mean to testify that you went out to the college and found twenty or more pairs of men and women sleeping together in one room on pallets?"

"Yes," said the sheriff. "And if you will go out to the college Sunday afternoon or any nice warm afternoon, you will see them on all of them hills just lying around like they were on them pallets."

Then, like Messrs. Thomas and Shepard, Sheriff Tankersley went into details.

THE committee was naturally curious as to the effect of Commonwealth's anti-American and antimoral practices and beliefs on the normal, conventionally brought up students within its gates. Mrs. Irene O'Roark, a twenty-eight-year-old woman from Marked Tree, Arkansas, who had had two brothers exposed to these conditions, enlightened them on this point. At the high-school stage Marion Noble had been, so his sister said, "just an ordinary mild-tempered boy." He was a member of the Methodist Church. Then he went to Commonwealth College. When he came home at Christmas time, he was changed.

"Did you talk with him as to his beliefs on Communism and Socialism?"

"Yes. That was all he talked about."

"Did he say he was a Communist?"

"Yes."

"Did you discuss with him his religious beliefs?"

"Oh, yes. He is an atheist now. Doesn't believe in anything, he says."

"What is his belief as to free love?"

"He does not believe in marriage at all."

"Does he believe Russia is a better government than the United States?"

"Oh, yes; it is the only thing that will save America, so he says."

Mrs. O'Roark then told of her brother's relations with a female student at Commonwealth College, whom he brought to his sister's home. At first he said they were married, then owned up that they were not.

Mrs. O'Roark continued the question, "You have

How old was he now," said, "F.

"Did he visit Commonwealth College?"

"Yes."

"Did your younger brother express any astonishment after returning from the college about conditions?"

"Yes. He told of the boys and girls living together, and about the bathing parties of the men and women, and he said that at first he never thought he would get used to it, but he finally got educated to it."

"Did he know any of the Soviet songs?"

"Yes. They sing songs about the Soviet Union at Commonwealth, and he would sing these songs 'until the world looked level.'"

"What did he say about the Red flag?"

"That it was the only flag, and that it was the only thing that would save the world."

IMAGINE the surprise of the Joint Legislative Committee when Minor Pipkin, an outstanding attorney of Mena, president of the Chamber of Commerce and head of the County Welfare Board, testified that the college was supported in part by funds supplied by the very government it was said to be planning to overthrow.

Nobody had to take Mr. Pipkin's word for it. He had the proof on government stationery:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 24, 1934.

Mr. W. R. Dyess,
State Relief Administration,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dear Mr. Dyess:

Mr. Lucien Koch, president of Commonwealth College, at Mena, Ark., has been here in the office presenting the claim of his institution as a special case for participation in the college student aid program. After consideration of the facts involved, Mr. Aubrey Williams agreed to approve this institution for participating in the program under the same condition as set forth in Mr. Hopkins [Harry Hopkins] letter of July 3rd, namely, that it will be entitled to an allotment of funds basis of 12 per cent of the full time enrollment as of October 15, 1934.

Mr. Koch will have an official affidavit executed by the acting director of the college and mailed to you at an early date. Upon receipt of the affidavit you are hereby authorized by Mr. Williams to make an allotment of funds available to the institution effective the first of November. After approval by you and the state superintendent of education, the affidavit should be sent in here for our file. I am sending a copy of this letter to Superintendent Phipps so that he will have a clear understanding of the situation.

Very sincerely yours,

(S) C. F. KLINEFELTER,
Asst. Director,
Educational Division.

Although the affidavit required for this authorization was never signed by Dyess, nor approved by him; and W. E. Phipps, state commissioner of education, refused to approve the application and declared that he never received a letter referring to authorization of the grant of money, the federal funds began rolling in beginning November 1, 1934.

It wasn't until this legislative investigation in March, 1935, that the citizens of Arkansas discovered what was happening to them.

The state authorities were apparently unable to do any thing about the alleged teaching of seditious doctrines at the college. The teachers admitted that they expounded Communist and revolutionary principles to their students, but insisted that that fact didn't mean that they necessarily espoused those principles themselves or urged them on their charges. Plenty of lay testimony was adduced to show that they did, but it wasn't considered valid against their given word.

There is every reason to believe that Senator Joseph T. Robinson, Congressman Ben Cravens, in whose district the outrage was committed, and Congressman W. J. Driver, in whose district the college agitators had been



WHEN THAT DAY COMES

by
CHARLES C. LEAVITT

READING TIME • 23 MINUTES 40 SECONDS

*The Poignant, Dramatic Story of a
Glamorous Girl of the Skyways and
the Strange Thing that Happened
to a Love that Lived Without Hope*

To Senator Robinson, Futrell wrote the following letter:

Dear Senator Robinson:

The undersigned gentlemen of Mena, Ark., are now in the governor's office. They are outstanding citizens, as you well know.

Mr. Pipkin, as spokesman, says there is no question that the Commonwealth College in that county is a Communist institution and teaching Communism. These people are up in protest and justly so. Why should the United States be nursing a viper that will destroy it eventually if not stopped?

Therefore, federal funds should not be allocated to be used in carrying on that institution any more than the government would encourage and uphold mob violence by the United States army. It should no more do this than it would use the army to accomplish a revolution in this country.

I join these gentlemen in this protest that this institution receive no further aid from the United States.

(Signed) J. M. FUTRELL, Governor

MINOR PIPKIN

HENDERSON JACKSON

A. W. DODSON

D. D. CLEMENT

D. M. WATKINS

Wrote Representative Driver: "It is quite embarrassing to an adherent of the administration to admit that any one connected with its policy and affairs is willing to give comfort to an institution and those in charge thereof who are directing every effort to subvert its principles and purposes." Wrote Representative Cravens: "It is no use to try to stop the funds for this year; we shall have to fight to keep the school from getting them next year."

Also interesting is the fact that, in addition to Dr. Koch, Mr. Clay Fulks, long a teacher at Commonwealth, Mr. William Cunningham, former instructor in Marxism, and Dr. William E. Zeuch, principal founder and first president of Commonwealth College, all are on the government pay roll.

Fulks is editor in chief of the Arkansas Guide Book, a federal writers' project. Cunningham is director of a federal project in Oklahoma. Zeuch, until he resigned to establish another "college" on an island off the coast of North Carolina, was chief of planning of the Subsistence Division of the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

MORE important is the fact that Commonwealth College, in spite of all that testimony—and much more—is still a going concern.

Aware of this fact, Liberty authorized me to go to Arkansas and enroll as a student at Commonwealth College.

I reached Mena in the middle of an afternoon. Shortly an elderly automobile drove up, and I met Henry Black of Illinois, teacher of "Social Revolution" and Marvin Sanford of California, instructor in "Propaganda in Journalism," who took me out to Commonwealth.

The school is located on the Tallahanna Highway. There were about two dozen frame buildings grouped around the campus: offices, residences, two sizable dormitories,



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Newspapers and periodicals on their rack in the Commonwealth College library. Below: Deputy Sheriff Tankersley, who testified as to student immorality.



ation and dining hall. About ten young men and women were seated on the porch. One asked me who I was, and introduced me to the group. They were from New York, Chicago, Chattanooga, New Orleans, Cleveland, and Los Angeles.

A young fellow called Steve took me into the dining hall. I had just finished eating when Charlotte Moskowitz, secretary and treasurer of Commonwealth—she who had asked, "What do you mean by God?"—came in, and we walked over to the cottage of Richard Babb Whitten, a young Louisianian who had recently succeeded Dr. Lucien Koch as head of the school. Here the geniality which I had met with upon my arrival immediately disappeared.

"We know why you are here," Miss Moskowitz said. "You came to write a story about the school. You will have to leave. You can't stay."

"But what makes you think I am planning to write a story?"

"We know a lot of things," she said. "We have been looking for you. You recently wrote a letter to Chicago that you were coming to Commonwealth to gather material for a story."

I must have gasped. It was true that I had recently written, about another matter, to the managing editor of a Chicago newspaper that I was formerly connected with. I had told him he could address me at Commonwealth College, as I was planning to attend it. That letter was personal and confidential, and I told them so.

"Yes," Miss Moskowitz grinned. "It was personal and confidential. But we have a friend connected with that paper who makes it a point to obtain information." She turned to Whitten. "You are taking him over to Mena?"

Whitten nodded, and as we left the grounds I looked back toward the "college" whose instructors had admitted before a legislative committee that they did not believe in God or respect the American flag.

I had failed in my mission. I will never experience the advantages whatever they are of those courses in "Social Revolution" and "Propaganda in Journalism." But in my hour of defeat I had one consolation.

Thanks to the determined opposition of aroused Arkansians, Commonwealth College is no longer supported

ARM: CJ

RECORDED 61-7358 -63

February 13, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. G. Rottel,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice, Room 4244,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The December 19, 1936 issue of Liberty Magazine carried an article entitled: "Rah, Rah, Russia!". There is a statement therein to this effect: "----- Mr. Clay Fulkz, long a teacher at Commonwealth, Mr. William Cunningham, former instructor in Marxism, and Dr. William E. Zouch, principal founder and first president of Commonwealth College, all are, or were until recently, on the government pay roll".

The Commonwealth College referred to concerns the college located at Mena, Arkansas, which is alleged to be a school of Communist teachings and propaganda.

It is my desire that you immediately institute a thorough, discreet and diplomatic investigation, obtaining all available information with reference to these individuals and determining the nature of the positions, if any, which they occupied with the government.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

FEB 15 1937

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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61-7358 -63

RECORDED

February 13, 1937.

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge the receipt of the copy of your letter dated January 31, 1937, and the enclosures thereto, the original of which letter was directed to [REDACTED] Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Washington, D. C.

I appreciate the interest which prompted you in directing to me a copy of your letter, but I regret to advise you that in the absence of Congressional legislation this Bureau is not empowered to undertake an investigation in the matters referred to in your letter.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECEIVED
MAILED

FEB 15 1937

CC - Los Angeles

@

b7c

Using Grundy County as Laboratory, School Spreads Communist Doctrines in State

This is the first of the series of stories to give the inside picture of the operations of the Highlander School, written after a 10-day visit of a Tennessean reporter to the school and Grundy County.

By JOHN McDOUGAL BURNS
Copyright, 1939 by The Nashville Tennessean

"PURPOSE AND PROGRAM"

"Purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to promote the progressive labor movement in the South.

"The six weeks terms for resident students are only part of the school's program, which includes year-round community and extension activities. Staff members keep busy doing the practical work of organizing labor groups in nearby areas and carrying on educational and recreational work for the unions. Conferences and institutes are held at the school between resident periods.

OPERATES NURSERY

"Highlander operates a nursery school and conducts an educational and cultural program for the community. Music lessons are given for the young people. A library of 4,000 volumes is open throughout the year."

Thus is stated in very simple, clear terms the reason for being of one of Tennessee's youngest educational institutions. But if one takes the time as I have done, to study this "Program and Purpose" at first hand, he finds that the program is a good deal more ambitious than it appears to be, and that the purpose runs much deeper than the words indicate.

I found that Highlander Folk School, located near Monteagle in Grundy County, Tennessee, has done, and is doing some rather remarkable things for such a modest institution.

This small group of "liberal" people, housed in a modest frame building a few miles from one of the state's most famous summer resorts, has not made much noise but it has achieved much. Two weeks of research, including 11 days actually spent at the school and the immediate neighborhood, have led me to the following conclusions:

CENTER FOR 13 STATES

1. It is a center, if not the center, for the spreading of communist doctrine in 13 Southeastern states.
2. Connected with its leadership are persons who have either been charged with being communists or who have been linked definitely with Moscow.

3. Its faculty spreads communism, approves this doctrine, and sends its alumni into labor organizations mostly in the South, where they maintain contact with their alma mater and spread its teachings over the area.

HOLDS CONFERENCES

4. It holds conferences and institutes at the school between regular sessions with its teachers and students, in which their communist theories to labor leaders and others are spread.

5. It has not restricted activities to its campus but

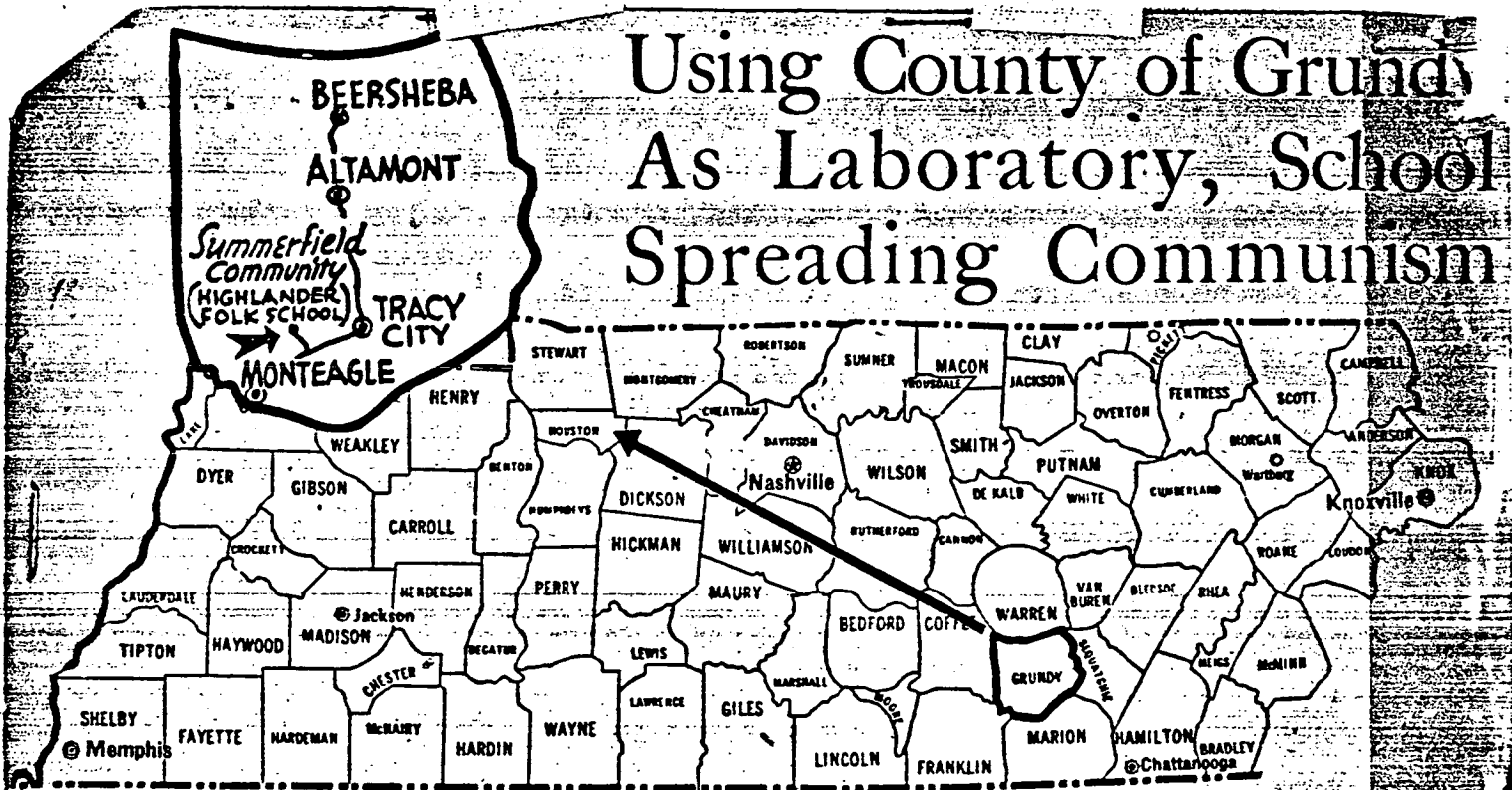
(Continued on Page 13, Column 2)

The Nashville Tennessean
Nashville, Tenn.

10-15-39.

61-7558-75X

Using County of Grundy As Laboratory, School Spreading Communism



The map above shows the location of the Highlander Folk School in Grundy County, close to the Monteagle Assembly grounds and near the famous Southern summer resort. This house is the Highlander Folk School building. It now houses the sessions of the school where "progressive leaders" of the South are taught.

(Continued From Page One)

has made an entire county (Grundy) its laboratory. Of 9,717 residents in Grundy, 1,120 have been receiving some work relief. Among these it has organized units of the Workers Alliance, concerning which testimony before a WPA investigating committee of Congress, declared the alliance was of Communist origin. Directing this group, the school has staged strikes, elected the county sheriff and now intends to gain control of the county school system.

LEFTISTS IN GROUP

The school is "recognized" by state communist headquarters in Nashville and among its guests has numbered many leftists of national reputation including Clifford Odets, the playwright, and Anna Louise Strong, editor of the Moscow Daily News in Soviet Russia for several years and who is now an author.

Highlander has kept in close contact with Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark., which is widely known for its communistic teachings and life. Often students at Highlander have attended Mena and one member of the Highlander school is a former professor of Commonwealth.



This is the Highlander Folk School that has become an influence on the lives of the majority of Grundy County residents. It has housed the present labor school for approximately eight years. Before then it was used as a cooperative for the residents of the Summerfield community.

The Nashville Tennessean
10-15-39

COPIES DESTROYED

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nts of the county, as well
leath and alumni. Its li-
which is well stocked with
university literature and history.
is communist official organ. "The
Daily Worker" is its most popular
paper.

9. It is the source of plays for
use by "progressive labor" groups.
The plays include communist prop-
aganda.

10. The school with its con-
trolled county of Grundy serves as
a clinic for labor problems, giving
instructions on strike methods,
etc., but not overlooking these fur-
ther opportunities to spread the
leftist doctrine.

MANY QUERIES RECEIVED

For a long while The Tennessean
has been receiving queries con-
cerning this school. Readers, most
of them residents of that area,
have urged that the true status of
the school be made known. So it
was decided that I should go there,
live at the school and make what
investigation of the situation I
could.

It was decided that I should not
go in the guise of a reporter, but
to become an interested visitor for
the duration of my visit. I
dropped my surname and went un-
der the name of John McDougall.

I went from Nashville to Chat-
tanooga, left my car there and
hitchhiked back to Monteagle. I
reached the summer resort late
on a Sunday night and decided
that I might as well walk on out
to the school, which I had been
informed was about two miles from
town.

I had never been in Grundy
County before and frankly I didn't
think the assignment was so "hot."
I wondered about the type of peo-
ple that I would encounter. I had
heard that these mountaineers
were on the taciturn side and
doubted if they knew enough about
communism, the capitalistic sys-
tem and Moscow to answer my
questions.

They'll probably think I am
crazy, I decided. They won't be
talking about such things, anyway.

NO LONG WAIT

But fortunately I didn't have long
to wait to find out.

About a mile from Monteagle I
became tired and sat down beside
my suitcase to rest. I had been
sitting there about five minutes
when I saw a man approaching. I
guessed that he must live in the
region because he was dressed in
a pair of overalls, wore a small
coat and an old slouch hat. He had
a slight mustache and was rather
thin. I judged him to be about 5
feet tall.

"Say," I said, "could you tell me
the way to Highlander Folk
School?"

"So you are going to the school,"
he said, looking me over. "I am a
student there. My name is Willard
King. I'll be glad to show you the
way. But what are you doing on
the road at this time of night?"

King was informed that I was a
school teacher from Texas on a
leave of absence. Having heard of
the school on my travels, it was
a natural a visit should result.

King posed that we sit by the
road and rest a while. He
said he had another mile or
so to go to the building. In the
two hour conversation that follow-
ed I received much information on
the school and what it is doing in
Grundy County today.

"We've already begun to over-
throw government," King be-
gan. "We have elected a sheriff
here in opposition to the capital-
ists."

He told me that in the 1830 cen-
sus there were 9,717 persons in the
county. Of this number, he con-
tinued, 2,200 are certified for relief.
He said that there were approxi-
mately 600 other wage earners in
the county.

"The coal mines have played out.
We are dependent upon the WPA
in the main part. But we have had
trouble with them and it is only
through our Workers Alliance
units, sponsored by the Highlander
school that we are able to keep
things running smoothly in the
county," King said.

HOW ABOUT COMMUNISTS

"Well," I ventured after he had
talked for some time about condi-
tions, "how is the communist party
in the county?"

"We've had a good chapter on
and off up here for some years,"
King replied. "Ted Wellman down
in Nashville is state secretary and
comes up here pretty often. He is
a good friend of the teachers over
at the Highlander Folk School."

"I have visited him at his office
in the Exchange Building in Nash-
ville with Myles Horton. Myles is
in charge of the school now. He's
the one you will have to see if you
are going to stay at the school."

My next query was regarding
prospects of getting work at High-
lander. King dispelled any hopes
that I might have on that score,
pointing out there was no work to
be had.

"Even the unions who send stu-
dents here have to pay their tui-
tion and board," he explained. He
added that finances of the school,
since they were entirely based
upon gifts, were low at the pres-
ent time.

King referred again to the "over-
throw of the government of Grundy
County by the election of the
sheriff."

"That shows what people as a
whole think of Communism," he
said. "The general public believes
the Communist is a person stand-
ing with bomb in hand, ready to
commit some act of sabotage. The
way we overthrew the local gov-
ernment here is more in the com-
munistic way."

BOMBS OUT OF ORDER

"Communists are not tossing
bombs now. They realize that that
sort of thing is out—for the pres-
ent, at least," he continued.

I asked if he were a Communist.
"I didn't get to the last meeting,"
was his reply. "It was held about
a month ago and I was sick at the
time."

I asked King what he did for a
living.

"I used to be on WPA and I was
an organizer for the Workers Al-
liance for several years, then I got

back on WPA. He had a wife
and five children. He asked
out what salary he received from
the WPA with the produce from a
five-acre Grundy County farm.
"However," he said, "I get more
out of life than most people do. I
have been taking part with the
Highlander Folk School for a long
time now. And through the school
I meet many interesting people."

AUTHOR VISITS SCHOOL

"Why, in April Cliff Odets, the
author of 'Waiting for Lefty' and
'Golden Boy,' came up to High-
lander and read us the new play
he will have on Broadway this
year. He read until 4 o'clock in
the morning and then drove on to
Atlanta, I believe."

King was asked if Odets was
known as a Communist.

"I believe he is noted for being
on the left side," King replied.

"I don't know if he is a member
of the party. But I believe he has
given money to help the school."

King then outlined the fight
the Highlander group and the
Grundy County Board of Educa-
tion was having over use of the
Summerfield School house by the
former group for a nursery school.

According to King, the board
had objected to use of the school's
vacant room by the Highlander
group as a nursery school by mem-
bers of the "Summerfield Commu-
nity."

PREDICTS LEGISLATION

"We are going to elect a new
legislative delegation and get a
bill passed at the next session of
the legislature to get rid of this
board," he continued. "Then we
are going to see that the right
people are appointed."

King again turned the conversa-
tion to Communism.

"It has the same objectives as
Socialism and right now it is just
as peaceful," he said. "After all,
a man has a right to be a Com-
munist. There's nothing wrong
with it."

I asked if the faculty of the
school, as a whole, was in the
party.

"You'll have to ask Myles and the
others that question. That's their
business," he said.

ANOTHER STORY

Later I did ask "Myles and the
others" that question. The answer
they gave me enabled me to gain
access to the state Communist
headquarters in Nashville after I
returned there. But that's another
story.

"Let's push on to the school,"
King said, "I know you are tired."

We walked on down the road.
Soon we came to the school and
I was admitted as a "guest stu-
dent." I told the housekeeper,
Ish Brandon the same story that
I told King.

"I thought as I undressed
for bed in the Highlander school
guest room, 'If King is typical of
these mountain people, it looks like
I'll find plenty on my visit here.'"

*W. L. Nashville, Tennessee
10-15-39*

X

MEMORANDUM

Lucien Koch; Commonwealth College
of Mena, Arkansas.

Following is a brief outline of the history of Commonwealth College of Mena, Arkansas, and Lucien Koch, former President and Director of that institution.

[REDACTED]

Information contained in serial 71 of the Bureau file No. 61-7009 indicates that Koch succeeded William E. Zeuch, who was former President of Commonwealth College.

[REDACTED] Koch resigned as President of Commonwealth College in April, 1935, in order to seek a position with the Government at Washington, D. C.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There is an article appearing in a publication called "The Government Standard", which shows that Lucien Koch recently was elected as a delegate from Labor Lodge No. 12. He also was elected District Department Delegate to the American Federation of Government Employees. The date of this article is not stated nor does the date of the issue of the publication appear thereon. On January 1, 1937,

b7c

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FILE

a newspaper article appeared in the Washington Daily News and the Washington Times to the effect the District of Columbia Department of the American Federation of Government Employees refused to accept Lucien Koch as a delegate from Labor Lodge No. 12. The Daily News article stated that labor sympathizers were considerably perturbed because of Lucien Koch's being denied recognition as a delegate from the Labor Lodge. Articles reflecting the position of the District of Columbia Department of the American Federation of Government Employees with reference to receiving Koch as a delegate also appeared in the Washington Star issue of January 9, 1937, and the Washington Post of January 10, 1937.

Transmitted with the abovementioned letter dated January 11, 1937, from the Washington Field Division was a copy of the December 19, 1936, issue of the Liberty magazine. This magazine contained an article entitled "Rah, Rah, Russia!". From this article it appears an investigation of Commonwealth College was conducted by a legislative committee of the Arkansas Legislature. From an examination of all the material mentioned in this memorandum, it appears this investigation was conducted during the early part of 1935, apparently in February or March of that year. Lucien Koch was called as a witness before this committee and testified in substance and effect that he had never voted and believes the Government of the "Union of Socialist Republics (Soviet Russia) is in many respects superior to the American Government". Koch was evasive in his answers to questions concerning his views on his allegiance to the United States Government and whether he would attempt to overthrow the Government of the United States. He declined to answer without advice of counsel when asked whether he respected the American Flag.

There is a little additional information with reference to Lucien Koch himself. However, on December 16, 1933, [REDACTED] made an affidavit to the effect Commonwealth College taught principles of Marxism and Imperialism and that immorality is a common occurrence at Commonwealth College. [REDACTED] b7c

There is a letter dated August 3, 1936, from the Washington Field Division bearing the title [REDACTED] reflecting inquiries made for the purpose of determining the activities of these individuals, and particularly whether they had

communistic tendencies or any connections with the Communistic Party.

[REDACTED]

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During the committee hearing held by the Arkansas State Legislature, referred to above, Lucien Koch admitted he had gone to jail for four days as a result of his activities in the "Planter-Tenant situation in Poinsett County". In the heretofore mentioned Liberty magazine article, it was stated that Lucien Koch identified a publication of Commonwealth College which announced the formation "without a dissenting vote" of an all inclusive unified front to build revolutionary student and teacher organizations in the colleges of the state".

Regarding Commonwealth College itself, there are contained in serial 4 of Bureau file 61-6156 certain enclosures forwarded to the Bureau by Senator T. H. Caraway by letter dated September 27, 1936. These enclosures consist of photostatic copies of circulars and pamphlets issued by the College, a copy of the College's publication, and a letter dated September 23, 1926, from [REDACTED] Mena, Arkansas. From the information contained in the pamphlets, it appears that Commonwealth College was organized in April, 1923. It is stated its founders were interested in experimenting with the idea of non-propaganda higher education for workers on a self-supporting basis. They proposed to try out an educational plan whereby the students and teachers were to work four hours daily, 24 hours a week, for maintenance and to devote the remainder of each week to study and classroom work. The college originally was established in Louisiana, but was removed to Mena, Arkansas, in January, 1925.

b7c

The pamphlets issued by the College state it is the purpose of the College to establish and maintain a method whereby an opportunity for advanced instruction, especially in the social studies, may be offered to those working youths who have the native intelligence and natural capacity to serve the workers but are unable to develop their powers for want of funds. It is stated the College sponsors no religious, political or economic dogma, but aims to develop standards for efficient service in the labor movement. It seeks to develop in the students an "attitude which challenges an unthinking acceptance of ideas and institutions". At that time, namely in 1936, the officers of administration of the college were:

William Edward Zeuch, Educational Director;
F. M. Goodhue, Dean of Men;
Kate Richards O'Hare, Dean of Women
and Secretary;
Harold Z. Brown, Executive Secretary;
Ernest E. Koch, Industrial Manager.

The curriculum of the school, as published by the college in 1926, included studies in economics, psychology, American History and Government, Public Speaking, Accountancy, Law, Drama, Money and Banking, Principles of Statistics, Labor History, Labor Journalism, Statistics in Labor Disputes, Labor Problems, Social Origins, Social Reconstruction, Political Science, Persuasion and Argumentation, etc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Although all sources of information concur in stating that W. E. Zeuch was one of the original founders, certain sources of information indicate there is some variance as to the identities of the persons originally connected with the foundation of the College. The Literary Digest issue of January 9, 1937, contains an article on Commonwealth College. This article states that the College was founded about 14 years ago by Dr. William E. Zeuch, a University of Wisconsin graduate, who in 1935 was Chief of the Planning Division in the Department of the Interior's Subsistence Homestead Section and Kate Richards O'Hare, one time Socialist candidate for Vice-President. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] Information contained in serial [REDACTED] reflects that Kate Richards O'Hare assisted Dr. Zeuch in the formation of Commonwealth College [REDACTED]

With further reference to the Committee hearings held by the Arkansas Legislature, referred to above, one Charlotte Moskowitz was called as a witness at that hearing. This individual testified she was then secretary-treasurer of the institution and a member of the faculty. She was asked whether she believed in a supreme being and answered "what do you mean by a supreme being?" She testified that she never read the Bible, respects no symbols and does not know what the American Flag stands for. Other witnesses who testified before the abovementioned hearing furnished information indicating Commonwealth College has instructors with communistic tendencies and teach communism, although they, the officials of the college, disclaimed advocating principles of communism to the students. Other witnesses testified to seeing "mixed" bathing parties and coed dormitories with both men and women in the same room with only their night clothes on.

The Liberty magazine article appearing in the December 19, 1936, issue of that publication was written by Mr. Nolen Bulloch, apparently a writer for the magazine. In this article Mr. Bulloch states he was sent to the college for the purpose of attending same as a student but the college obtained advanced information of his coming and immediately ushered him off the campus.

[REDACTED]

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Contrasted with the above information indicating that immorality is prevalent at Commonwealth College is information contained in an article appearing in a publication called the "American Guardian", the February 5, 1937, issue of that publication. In this article reference is made to a proposed bill referred to as "H. B. 148" to prohibit the teaching of any foreign doctrine of Government and to prevent the teaching of free love in any college in the state of Arkansas. This article states that a legislative investigation was conducted in 1935, and concluded that no doctrine of force or violence was taught or practiced at Commonwealth College. It is stated that moral backing is received by the College from "such prominent citizens as these": Oscar Ameringer, Roger Baldwin (leader of the American Civil Liberties Union), Francis J. Gorman (leader of the United Textile Workers of America) and numerous others. This article quotes a letter from a former student named Bob West, son of a former head of the Department of History, University of Minnesota and author of many high school history text books, "even in the state of Arkansas". In this article Mr. West states he was a member of the Minnesota Farmer - Labor Party when he attended Commonwealth College and is today secretary of the Farmer-Labor Ward Club - "The foremost political party in the state of Minnesota". He states he is a member of an office workers Local No. 17661, "affiliated with the American Federation, which is not exactly a communist organization". Mr. West states that he at no time has been a member of the Communist Party and that his political views and beliefs underwent no radical change while attending Commonwealth College. He denied that any teacher at Commonwealth College ever urged him or any of his fellow students to use force and violence to overthrow the Government.

Newspaper articles appeared in the Daily Worker issue of December 29, 1936, the Western Worker issue of January 7, 1937, and the Arkansas Gazette of December 28, 1936, to the effect that Commonwealth College welcomed a Federal investigation and had requested the McFollette Committee on Civil Liberties to conduct an investigation. An Associated Press article dated December 29, 1936, which appeared in the Arkansas Gazette, stated the Senate Civil Liberties Committee contemplated no action with reference to investigating Commonwealth College. The Daily Worker issue of January 5, 1937, quotes Charlotte Moskowitz, secretary-treasurer of the School, as stating the College is definitely on the side of labor, farmers and unemployed; that their teachers and students come from that class. This article states that Francis J. Gorman, first Vice-President of the United Textile Workers of America and foremost progressive labor leader just announced his willingness to serve on the College's Advisory Board of 21 liberal and labor figures.

An Associated Press article dated at Mena, Arkansas, January 21, 1937, which appeared in the New York American, stated that Representative Herman Horton of the State of Arkansas introduced a bill in the state legislature to prevent the teaching of free love and any doctrine to overthrow the Government. By letter dated January 22, 1937, the Bureau received from Representative Horton a copy of the proposed bill which provides briefly that any person who teaches or allows to be taught in any school in the state of Arkansas principles of communism or any other foreign doctrine of the Government for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of the United States by violence, and any person who teaches the doctrine of free love or who practices or permits the teaching of such practices in the schools of the state of Arkansas, is guilty of committing a felony and upon conviction may be sentenced to a term of not less than one nor more than five years in the state penitentiary. b1c

[REDACTED]
apparently is very vigorous in opposing the teachings of this college.

[REDACTED]
One of the newspaper articles indicate efforts are or will be made by the citizens of Pike County, Arkansas, where Commonwealth College is located, to close the College. To this effect, see the articles appearing in the Arkansas Gazette dated December 27, 1936, which carries an Associated Press article dated December 26, 1936, at Mena, Arkansas.

[REDACTED]

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In the heretofore mentioned Literary Digest Article dated January 9, 1937, it is stated Commonwealth College was organized with funds donated by the Fund for Public Service (The Garland Fund of New York), the Carnegie Foundation, and additional contributions from the International Ladies Garment Workers, etc.

[REDACTED]

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b7D

Mr. Nathan
 Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Bauchman
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Coffey
 Mr. Dawsey
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Foxworth
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Joseph
 Mr. Lester
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Quinn
 Mr. Schuch
 Mr. Tamm
 Mr. Tracy
 Miss Gandy

The Sun,
 Baltimore, Maryland
February 19, 1937.

**Bill-To-Ban Teaching
 Of Communism Beaten**

**Arkansas House Rejects Measure.
 Move Begun To Repeal Anti-
 Evolution Law**

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 18 (AP)—The Arkansas House of Representatives defeated today a bill to prohibit the teaching of communism or any other foreign doctrines intended to start a movement to overthrow the State or National Government.

A few minutes after rejection of the bill, by Representative Herman Horton, of Jonesboro, 46 to 19, Representatives Adrian Coleman and John E. Coates introduced a measure to repeal the Arkansas anti-evolution law enacted in 1928.

Both proponents and foes of the Horton proposal said it sought to close Commonwealth College, located near Mena, if proof were shown that the overthrow of the Government or free love were taught at the cooperative labor institution.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7558-85X

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

March 15, 1937

~~COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE~~

The Baltimore Sun, for February 19, 1937, points out that on the day preceding, the Arkansas House of Representatives defeated a bill to prohibit the teaching of Communism or any other foreign doctrine intended to start a movement to overthrow the State or National Government.

Both those in favor of and those against the Horton proposal stated that the purpose of the proposal was to close Commonwealth College, located near Mena, Arkansas.

*4 Copies
to R. M. Fala
9/19/30*

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R 237 APR 27 1961

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 16 1937 A. M.	
DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

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SOUTHERN RESIDENT LABOR COLLEGES

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TENN.

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE, MENA, ARKANSAS

SOUTH'S MENACE TO NATION'S WAGE STANDARDS LEADS LIBERAL GROUP TO SEEK WIDER SUPPORT FOR LABOR COLLEGES

SCHOOLS TRAIN LEADERS FOR ORGANIZING LABOR

John Dewey has suggested that it is amazing that in a democracy training for labor leadership isn't a definite part of the general school curriculum. But since it isn't, the need for the labor colleges is apparent.

As industry grows more powerful, labor needs all the skill it can muster in planning and organizing, and its leaders need more deep-seated conviction than ever. To help impart this skill and conviction so essential in the struggle for a better society, is the object of the Southern Resident Labor Colleges, Highlander Folk School, founded in 1930, and Commonwealth College founded in 1925.

Courses of study include work in the following fields: History of the Labor Movement, Economic and Political Theories—with stress on the evils of fascism—and their application in various countries; Methods of Labor Organization, Farmers' Problems and Organization; Current Events, Labor Journalism, Labor Drama, English, Public Speaking and Consumer Cooperation.

Everybody Works

Both colleges are run cooperatively, students and faculty doing whatever manual work is required and raising as much of their own food supply as possible. Work by students is credited toward their tuition and maintenance.

Both schools draw most of their resident students from the South, with some from the Middle and Southwest and a few from the Northeast. They come from the farms, the Kentucky mining areas, the North Carolina textile mills, the Birmingham steel center, Florida citrus fields and other industrial centers. Most of the students remain at least two quarters (3 mos. per quarter) but some can stay only for one and a few attend for a year. The two schools together turn out an average of over 100 students per year to go back into the labor and farm movements, trained in the technical side of organization and with a foundation in the history of the farm and labor movements.

Several hundred alumni of the two

(Continued on Page 4)



by Lynd Ward

THE NEW ABOLITIONISTS (An Editorial)

As the mass industries, directed by a small group of powerful money lenders, prepare to "gang up" on organized labor, it is well for all liberals and friends of labor to keep an eye on reaction's ace in the hole: the low-wage, unorganized South.

Here shortsighted industrialists, if defeated in the North, can retreat to a paradise of sweatshoppers and peonage to escape the higher labor standards of the North. And as this migration grows, the collapse of labor standards and general purchasing power throughout the nation must inevitably follow.

Already "carpet-bagger" industrialists, some small, some as large as a great rubber company, are relocating machinery below the Mason-Dixon line to cash in on cheap labor and long hours which low-visioned Southern office-holders and Chambers of Commerce are offering them. In most cases not only cheap labor, but tax-free factories built

(Continued on Page 4)

SEEK \$35,000 TO MEET SCHOOLS' MINIMUM NEEDS

A drive to raise \$35,000 for the budgets of the two Southern Resident Labor Colleges for 1937 got under way with the organization of a Finance Campaign Committee in New York City.

The amount decided on covers only the rock-bottom needs of Commonwealth College and Highlander Folk School, and it must be raised if the valuable work they are doing for the entire labor movement is not to be curtailed.

With the tremendous drain on union labor organizations because of the present strike situation, the Committee hopes that every friend of workers' education will make a special effort to put the drive over the top.

The Committee represents a group of regular contributors to the labor schools who hope through this drive to eliminate the lost motion that has characterized the past financing of the schools because of separate appeals and to set the colleges on a firm financial basis. The increasing demand by Southern workers for this type of education means that the schools must have greater financial support than they have had in the past if they are to fulfill their purpose.

Members of the Finance Campaign Committee are: Helen S. Ascher, Harold Coy, James Dombrowski, John W. Edelman, Carl Haessler, Leo Huberman, Margaret I. Lamont, Eliot D. Pratt, John Rothschild, Adelaide Schnlkind, and Mark Starr.

Sponsoring the drive are Oscar Ameringer, Roger Baldwin, Mary Barker, John Bosch, George S. Counts, Eleanor G. Coit, Abraham Epstein, George Clifton Edwards, Clinton S. Golden, Francis J. Gorman, Ida E. Guggenheimer, J. B. S. Hardman, Lem Harris, Donald Henderson, Charles J. Hendley, Freda Kirchwey, Ira Latimer, Elizabeth Lawson, Robert Moras Lovett, Grace Lumpkin, Alexander Meiklejohn, Abraham Miller, Rev. R. Lester Mondale, Frank Palmer, Jacob S. Potofsky, Vida D. Scudder, Luther Ely Smith and Odie L. Sweeden, Fannia M. Cohn, Alice Hanson and E. C. Lindeman. Irene Thomas is executive secretary.

FOR CONTRIBUTOR'S CONVENIENCE, COUPON IS PROVIDED ON LAST PAGE OF INSERT

The Nation - March 27, 1937 (Advertisement) 61-7558-115X3

LABOR COLLEGES FIGHT TO RAISE



IT'S SIX O'CLOCK REVEILLE AT COMMONWEALTH AND MANUAL LABOR UNTIL CLASS TIME. HERE'S A CLASS ASSEMBLING JUST BEFORE THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS.



(UPPER) MAIN BUILDING, HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL; (CENTER) TYPICAL COMMONWEALTH COTTAGE; (LOWER) COMMONWEALTH IS HOUSED IN COTTAGES GROUPED ON 320 ACRE TRACT.



"I have among the Europe pov as that whic Arkansas o Coast."

—Secr.

HUMAN EROSION (Upper left) A neighbor, Mrs. doctors say is dy (Upper right) T dren (lower left) which hundreds o ernalers live (lou Tennessee minio;

Poverty, bad enough in the industrial N disease of starvation, is eight times more p



FLOGGINGS, SHOOTINGS, INDUSTRIAL REACTION INDECENT CONDITIONS, HEADLINES TELL STORY



DANGEROUS BUSINESS: JOE DOBBS, PRESIDENT CHATTANOOGA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, CRITICALLY SHOT IN STRIKE TWO DAYS AFTER LEAVING HIGHLANDER FOLK CONFERENCES. NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH. (ABOVE) MATT LYNCH, H.F.S. ALUMNUS, KIDNAPPED DURING STRIKE AT ROCKWOOD.

**Carpet-Baggers of Ind
Stir Plea from th**

**Tennesseeans Want
Subsidized Mill
to Get Out of Town**

Dickson Mayor Thru of Bargain He Made with Pennsylvania Plant, Which Moved to Escape Higher Labor Costs.

**Booster Element of South
Aids Labor's Exploitation**

Chambers of Commerce, Civic Organizations and Even the State Ade Sheriffs and Manufacturers to Keep Hours High and Wages Low.

This is the statement of a series of articles based on a thorough study of the labor situation in various parts of the South.

by WILLIAM L. GREEN.

South-Tennessee Daily Worker.

Exploitation of labor in Southern areas becomes more and more acute, in other regions which certain types of industry now are leaving to locate in the South.

These outgrowths are:

1. Aided by labor protective laws and efficient machinery.

2. Strong union organization.

LIVING STANDARDS OF SOUTH

ver seen
santry of
so abject
xists from
to the East

y Wallace

AMERICA:
ghlander Folk
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from starvation.
mountain chil-
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nsands of South-
ght) Shacks in
age.

reaches its direst in Dixie. Pellagra, a
ent in South than in the rest of the nation.



HIGHLANDER FOLK EXTENSION WORK:
(ABOVE) LABOR ORGANIZERS AT WEEK-
END INSTITUTE (LEFT) UNION GROUP
IN NEIGHBORING COUNTY DISCUSSES
CONSUMER COOPERATIVES.



NAPPING—LYNCH LAW IS THE ANSWER OF
SOUTHERN WORKERS' PROTESTS AGAINST
ITE AND NEGRO ALIKE ARE THE VICTIMS.
EMPLOYER-CHISELLING AND SWEATED LABOR.

(ABOVE) EVERYBODY WORKS AT COMMONWEALTH.
HERE'S THE WOOD CREW. (BELOW) STUDENTS IN
COMMONWEALTH'S 8,000 VOLUME LABOR LIBRARY.

try, Finding Cheap Labor in the South, Workers for Revival of NRA's Objectives

igitive Factories Leave
Trail of Misery in South

Girl Works for 2 Weeks,
Is Paid for 3.24 Hours

made Stranded in North When Plants Moved, and Mississippi Starkeeper Angered by System Adopted by Firm
the Teams Which Gave Civic Handbooks Feel Uncon-
Fights and Are Beginning to Resist.

Which Started with Prison Labor—Plant Once in Pat-
son Also Causes Discontent Over Pay Scales.

and this—this is the aftermath of a series of articles based on
and this is the result of a series of articles based on

and this—this is the aftermath of a series of articles based on
and this is the result of a series of articles based on

By THOMAS L. STUBBS.
West-Tennessee story shows
subscribers who have fled South to escape degrading
and working conditions have left a trail of misery
on they shot up their plants in New York, New Eng-
land, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana and elsewhere.

This is the aftermath of a series of articles based on a dispassion-
ately of the recent migration of industry to certain areas of the South.

in-Union South Alabama
Draws Migrating Firms

Give head to the trouble of one manufacturing concern of
subversive instincts which brought down the wrath of NRA
and of State officials, stoked all efforts to discipline it, and
now is introduced in a Tennessee town under the "strange"

and this Workers Never See Cash for Years on End
Some "Company Towns"—Birmingham Called
One as CIO Drive Is Pressed.

Pastor, Speaking in Cockpit,
Champions Southern Labor

(Advertisement)

Drives 120 Miles Through Rain to Address Tennessee MRS.
Marked After Other Ministers Attend Services—



SIDELIGHTS

ALBERT EINSTEIN gave a student scholarship to Commonwealth College recently in appreciation of good work being done there.

FRANCIS J. GORMAN, Vice President and Southern Organizer for the U. S. C. I. W., says of the schools—"They are of kind, and to the trade union movement in the South."

JOHN DEWEY, America's leading philosopher, says of the work the labor colleges are doing, "One of the most important social-educational projects in America today." (Referring to Highlander Folk School).

H. L. MITCHELL, President Southern Tenant Farmers Union, says of Highlander Folk School, "You are doing a work of great importance and we want you to know that our organization is willing and anxious to give you all the support and cooperation possible."

CLYDE L. JOHNSON, active in Sharecroppers organizations; in accepting a place on the advisory board of Commonwealth College said: "Commonwealth is giving the very type of education the South most needs today."

SCHOOLS TRAIN LEADERS

(Continued from page 1)

Schools are working in the labor movement, in many sections of the country. They edit labor papers, teach workers' classes, organize workers' educational projects and cooperatives, organize unions and help carry on necessary strikes. They are to be found in many sectors of the labor-political front and in farm organizations as well.

Wide Extension Work

Through extension work the schools have large "spheres of influence" in the States immediately surrounding them. Classes, discussion and recreation groups are sponsored in cities, towns and country districts. Highlander Folk has started cooperative stores and canneries in neighboring communities and the school itself serves as a community center for the mountain community of Sum-

merfield as well as surrounding country. Neighbors of Commonwealth for many miles around use the school as a recreation centre. The college library is the best in this whole area and serves the entire countryside.

As the sharecroppers and industrial workers of the South are awakened to the possibilities of their own economic betterment, attacks, particularly on Commonwealth, have become more frequent and intensive. The bitterness of those reactionary forces seeking to maintain low-wages is, in a way, a measure of the effectiveness of the union organizers, some of whom have come in from the North and of the work of Commonwealth and Highlander Folk.

Our experience with NRA proved that unless labor is organized it is vain to expect adequate enforcement of any remedial labor legislation the government may secure.

Details of Budgets

The requested budgets of the two schools provide only for subsistence. There is no provision for monetary remuneration of any of the staff nor for scholarships. The Committee feels that there should be at least a small allotment for both of these items—for scholars since the Southern unions can provide them with at the present time and request of them have fairly or other demands to meet which make it impossible for them to remain at the colleges continuously. They are forced to leave the schools for periods to earn badly needed funds and then go back to carry on the work.

Commonwealth's Budget as requested provides for:

Plant and Equipment—includes purchase of car, repair of buildings and installation of piping for water system and wiring for light)	\$2,900.00
Farm and Stock	1,100.00
Maintenance (includes extension work)	9,775.00
Library	400.00
Added for faculty remuneration and scholarships	7,000.00
Total	\$21,175.00

Highlander Folk's budget as requested provided for:

Plant and Equipment	1,580.00
Farm	300.00
Maintenance	4,525.00
Extension	2,000.00
Library	500.00
Added for faculty remuneration and scholarships	5,000.00
Total	\$13,905.00

All contributions will be divided between the two colleges in a proportion based on requested budgets and amounts added for faculty remuneration and scholarships, after checking by a budget committee composed of one member of the Finance Committee and one expert school accountant.

THE NEW ABOLITIONISTS

(Continued from page 1)

at the expense of the cities and towns involved, are offered, the costs of buildings and machinery installation to be paid by deductions from the weekly pay envelopes of workers whose wages range from \$2 a week to a top of \$12. The headlines on the center page, reproduced from the Scripps-Howard newspapers, tell the shoddy story at a glance.

The abolition of cheap Southern labor approaches in importance to the entire national economy the abolition of Negro slavery. And the Southern Resident Labor Colleges, Highlander Folk School, at Monteagle, Tenn., and Commonwealth College at Mena, Arkansas, are the magnets of this new abolition movement. All the false charges of their enemies to the contrary, the aim of these labor schools is single: to teach workers how to force better living standards through higher wages and increased purchasing power.

In 1856 a courageous group of men founded an abolitionist college in a one-room shack at Berea, Kentucky, to fight slavery in the heart of the slave-holding South. They met with calumny, violence and expulsion from the State. But they returned to see their cause win with the triumph of the abolition movement.

Eighty years later, the new abolitionists are showing the same heroism and self-sacrifice in the fight to end unconscionable exploitation of human beings in factory and on tenant-farm. It is a fight that neither organized labor, nor American liberalism nor enlightened National industry can afford to see fail.

HEADS OF FACULTIES

Haven Perkins, faculty chairman at Commonwealth, is a graduate of General Theological Seminary, Rhodes scholar from Massachusetts, and former instructor at Harvard.

Myles Horton, faculty chairman at Highlander Folk, is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, attended University of Chicago and spent a year in Denmark studying Danish Folk Schools. Both have had practical experience in organizing workers.

HELP TRAIN
SOUTHERN ORGANIZERS
IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST
SOUTHERN PEONAGE

Every Dollar
Counts!

Southern Resident Labor Colleges,
18 East 48th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Enclosed find.....dollars for Southern Resident Labor Colleges.*

I Pledge.....dollars during 1937 toward fund for Southern Resident Colleges.*

Name

Address

*Contributions may be earmarked for either college if desired.

(Advertisement)

July 15, 1937.

RE: ~~X~~ COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

The Federated Press release issued by the Central Bureau at Chicago, Illinois for July 3, 1937, Series L, contains an article with reference to the above stated college and bears the date line Mena, Arkansas.

It is stated that as a result of years of missionary endeavor in the hostile and often suspicious southern environment the attitude toward Commonwealth College, the farmer-labor residential school in the Ozarks, is changing.

The Arkansas legislature in the spring of 1937 refused to act upon the charges that were brought against this college. It is announced that the school is about to conduct two educational and training institutes for selected members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Each will last a week and will be held at Okmulgee, Oklahoma and Charleston, Missouri. It is intended that a system of residential scholarships will be established by sympathetic supporters.

Raymond ~~X~~ Koch and Charlotte ~~X~~ Moskowitz, leaders of Commonwealth College, will concentrate their efforts in St. Louis in 1937 and will there conduct a labor college with the support of the United Electrical and Radio Workers Union, a C.I.O. affiliate. They intend to create closer cooperation between the southwestern and southern labor movement and Commonwealth College.

During the summer session of the school many students were in attendance from the east. The southern states represented included Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama and in addition thereto representatives were in attendance from Germany and the Netherlands.

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Some of the facilities offered by the college include room, board, laundry, campus recreation and instruction at an inclusive fee of \$50 per quarter of 12 weeks, plus farm or maintenance work by students and faculty of 15 or 20 hours a week. The college claims a large and well-managed library and a fortnightly paper printed on the campus.

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R 287 APR 28 1961

Commonwealth Changes

Commonwealth College, founded in 1923 as a heterodox academy where left-wingers of all shades might work and study, was oddly built, and oddly remains, on a 320-acre tract near Mena in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. A cluster of frame houses, halls and barns in which all the manual labor is done by faculty and students, the College is detested by many of the local citizenry who got the Arkansas Legislature to investigate "free love" and "nudism" at Commonwealth, and last winter Rev. Luther D. Summers, a Baptist of Mena, led a crusade to make the College move away, exclaiming: "What can any decent person think of a school that teaches Communism, free love, Negro equality with white, atheism?"

Commonwealth has as yet given no John Reed, nor even a Heywood Broun, to the Cause, and in recent years its internal troubles have gripped it more than the occasional forays of its students and teachers into areas of labor strife have irritated capitalists. Five years ago two-thirds of Commonwealth's student body went on strike, presumably because the institution's brand of radicalism was not radical enough, and several years later its young Director Lucien Koch resigned to take a job with the NRA as assistant economic analyst in the consumers' division. He was succeeded by a New Orleans Socialist named Richard Whitten, who left last autumn to work for his party. Commonwealth's most energetic official remained Charlotte ("Chucky") Moskowitz, executive secretary and wife of Lucien Koch's brother Raymond. Red-haired, 29, and freckled, "Chucky" Moskowitz raised money for the College, saw it through its legal and extra-legal bairnings, got it electrical and water systems, a printing plant and the dairy in which the cows are now fed on the un-Marxian principle of "to each according to what she produces." Miss Moskowitz, during the last of her twelve years at Commonwealth, helped steer its policies away from doctrinaire paths, towards the more practical purpose of training people for trade union organizing. Last month "Chucky" Moskowitz left Commonwealth, to live and work in St. Louis with her husband, now a teacher for the Radio & Electrical Workers' Union. Last week Commonwealth got a new director, Rev. Claude Clossee Williams, who made ready to steer still another new course.

An Arkansas Presbyterian, now without a pulpit, Preacher Williams nearly ran for Governor on the Socialist ticket in 1932. Last year he attained nationwide promi-

supply bill for the Department of the Interior. The President took note of a provision allotting the maximum \$14,483,000 appropriation authorized for Federal aid to vocational education under the George-Deen Act passed in June 1936. This was \$10,000,000 more than the President recommended in his budget message. It was also contrary to the recommendations of a special advisory committee headed by University of Chicago's Floyd Wesley Reeves, which the President appointed in September to sift pending educational legislation.

Lashed the President: "Much of the apparent demand for the immediate extension of the vocational education program under the George-Deen Act appears to have been stimulated by an active lobby of vocational teachers, supervisors, and administrative officers . . . who are interested in the emoluments paid in part from Federal funds. . . . Evidence was read into the records . . . indicating that much of the impetus behind this movement emanated from a single, interested source."

These strong words fitted no one better than the American Vocational Association, composed of 15,000 vocational educators and administrators, whose Executive Secretary Lindley Hoag Dennis has been energetically pushing the George-Deen appropriation from his Denrike Building office. Denying that A. V. A. was conducting a "lobby," Secretary Dennis attributed any undue pressure to enthusiasts back home.

Time Aug. 23, 1937

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Commonwealth College

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August 12, 1938

Memorandum
RE: COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

The following information is taken from the National Republic magazine dated August 1938, page 24:

The program of Commonwealth College for 1937-8 shows that many additional radicals are now supporting it. These alleged radicals are listed as follows and constitute the members of the National Advisory Committee of Commonwealth Colleges:

Roger Baldwin, of the American Civil Liberties Committee

Prof. George Counts, of Columbia Teachers College

Jerome Davis, dismissed Yale Divinity School Dean, now head of the American Federation of Teachers

Grace Humphin

Donald Henderson

Dr. E. C. Lindeman

Reid Robinson

A. Philip Randolph

Angelo Herndon

Len Harris

Carl Haessler

Lester Granger

Clinton Golden

Harold Coy

John Bosch

Walter Kargach

Prof. Alexander Meiklejohn of the University of Wisconsin

Victor Weather

James Sager

Willard Upshaw

Mark Starr.

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During the absence of Lucien Koch, who accepted a position in the Consumers Division of the Department of Labor, but who is now allegedly on leave of absence to work with the C.I.O. in Massachusetts, Claude Williams is acting as director of the College. Donald Kobler is secretary-treasurer while Winifred Chappell is chairman of the faculty. Miss Chappell is also secretary of the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

Members of the Non-Resident Board of the College are:

John Woodruff, a Texas school teacher
Odin Sweeden of Oklahoma
C. A. Stanfield of Arkansas
William Centner

Edward Norman of Florida
Walker Martin of Alabama
E. F. Justice of Arkansas
J. R. Butler of Tennessee
William Igo, of the Oklahoma Typographical Union
George Clifton Edwards, a Dallas attorney.

September 20, 1938

RE: COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

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According to its own statement, Commonwealth College has as its purpose "The training of young men and young women for active service in some militant organization in the labor movement". Located in the southern-most range of the Ozark Mountains, 12 miles from Mens, Arkansas, Commonwealth College has led an embattled existence for the past 12 years since its founding, with confrontations alternately with reaction and threatened bankruptcy.

Being situated on a 320 acre heavily wooded tract, the College consists of 27 drab wooden buildings which are very simple in their construction and furnishings. They are not at all times kept in the best of repair and complaints have been made on several occasions by students about the leaky conditions of some of the roofs on these buildings. Prospective students are warned by official publications that Commonwealth College is "not collegiate or bohemian, just proletarian".

According to information derived from various sources, this institution was founded by Dr. W. E. Leuch, Kate Richards "Ma" Hare, and one Harold V. Brown, all of whom have now severed their official connection with this college. Since the closing of the liberal Brookwood College, Commonwealth is the only permanent resident labor college in the United States with the exception of "the small but militant Highlander Folks School in Tennessee". Commonwealth boasts of an 8,000 volume library and the regular receipt of 200 or 300 periodicals and garden and dairy facilities capable of feeding a large number of students. The faculty and student body have collaborated in the publication of a periodical known as the "Fortnightly".

Finances for the maintenance of this school have been secured through donations from the Federal Emergency Relief Association in the form of scholarships, the Carnegie Fund, and from the now defunct Garland Fund as well as donations from private individuals, trade unions, fraternal organizations, etc., who are in sympathy with this movement.

The student body of Commonwealth College comes from the entire United States and normally number under 60 persons. No academic requirements are set out by the faculty but recommendations from union locals are important for entrance into the school. Application is made on printed forms furnished by the school upon request. A tuition

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